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To: The Under Secretary

Through: S/S

From: E - T. V. Kalijarvi

Subj: ^{on} Establishment under a Regularized Basis of a Diplomatic Wireless Service in the United States Embassies and Missions Abroad

Discussion:

For some time the Department has maintained radio receivers and transmitters in ~~most~~ of its missions abroad. Unfortunately it is ^{not} ~~only~~ able to operate ~~many of~~ these transmitters, because of its inability to offer reciprocal privileges to foreign countries, ~~which is to operate~~. ~~The~~ The restriction stems from Sections 301 and 310 of the Communications Act of 1934 as amended.

Because of disruptions to civil communications facilities in foreign countries and because of the threat of enemy jamming in time of war to civil and military communications, it is considered essential that the Act be amended to permit the President, on a highly selective and restrictive basis, to grant reciprocal privileges when required for the installation of the operation of transmitters in foreign missions in the United States.

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By letter dated August 19, 1955, signed by Deputy Under Secretary Murphy, (Tab A), the Office of Defense Mobilization was asked to initiate steps seeking remedial action. A staff study (Tab B), which accompanied the Deputy Under Secretary's letter, ~~but~~ since revised, is presently being used as a basis for obtaining informal clearance from Defense, CIA, the ~~Dept~~ FCC and FBI. Such clearance is deemed desirable prior to the time that a formal request is sent to the interested agencies.

The FBI, over the years, have opposed the granting of reciprocal privileges which would enable foreign missions to operate radio transmitters in this country presumably because it would add to ^{its} ~~their~~ security responsibilities. While the apprehensions of the FBI may be valid from a manpower and financial viewpoint, the Department does not ~~want~~ concede their validity from the security aspect.

Recommendation:

That you personally discuss the matter with Mr. J. Edgar Hoover and endeavor to seek his concurrence or non-objection to the Department's proposal, Tab B, at your earliest convenience.

Concurrences:

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Concurrences:

OSS/DC - Mr. Kreer

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Attachments:

Tab A - Letter to Dr. Flemming signed by Deputy Under Secretary Murphy
on August 19, 1955.

Tab B - Staff Study.